TO



January 19, 2002

Attorney General Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a member of the technology industry, I would like to express some of my views on the Microsoft case. I believe there were genuine concerns that brought about the lawsuits, but that was three years and countless dollars ago. You must not lose focus of the merits of the case. As long as Microsoft is willing to give up some of its market share and competitive advantage, there will be those that want a little more.

Under the settlement, Microsoft will change the way it develops, license, and markets its software. The company will disclose various protocols in its Windows operating system, and will not retaliate against those that develop or promote non-Microsoft hardware or software.

Although these concessions seem to go against the principle of free enterprise and competition, Microsoft has agreed to them in an effort to end this case sooner, rather than later. If these concessions were demanded from a more understandable industry, they would be seen as preposterous. Imagine if Ford had to allow GM to put their engines in its cars, or if McDonald's had to offer Burger King's Whopper to anyone that asked for it.

It is time to allow the IT industry to return its focus from litigation, back to innovation. The settlement will allow Microsoft, and all of those that depend on Microsoft for their livelihoods, to move forward.

Sincerely,

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